



The Changing Face of Illinois

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The Changing Face of Illinois

Executive Summary

The profile of immigrants in Illinois has changed dramatically over the past twelve years. Although Chicago has been the main immigrant destination in Illinois for most of the 20th Century, a remarkable shift in this pattern has occurred. Immigration to Chicago continues to be significant, but immigrants are now also settling in a range of locales, including Chicago's inner and outer suburbs, smaller Illinois cities and towns, and rural farming regions. Many of these areas have undergone particularly notable demographic and cultural transformations. Immigrant settlement patterns follow the path to the American dream. Immigrants live where they are needed in the Illinois labor force. They work, pay taxes, and raise families. Once naturalized, they vote.

This new geographic distribution of immigrants has the potential to significantly alter local political culture. Ethnic politics and immigrant voting blocs may no longer be concepts limited to Chicago. The key to the balance of power in the Illinois State Legislature, as well as to the outcomes of other local, state, and federal elections, potentially lies in the hands of immigrants. Four key suburban State Senate Districts—enough to shift control of the Illinois Senate from Republican to Democrat—have substantial populations of immigrants. Immigrants have become the new “soccer moms” of Illinois politics, the fastest growing group of “swing” voters in strategic key battleground suburban districts. A new era in Illinois politics has arrived.

Immigrants are responsible for 58% of the net population growth in the State of Illinois between 1990 and 2000. Indeed, were it not for immigrants, Illinois would have lost two Congressional seats, instead of one. Candidates for office whose constituencies reside in suburban municipalities, smaller towns, and districts long-considered staunchly partisan may need to rethink their strategies in upcoming elections and pay particular attention to issues of concern to immigrants and their families.

Illinois immigration is diverse. In suburban Cook County for example, 137,000 Mexican immigrants are joined by a total of 135,000 Poles, Indians, Filipinos, Koreans, and Italians. Immigrant voters in metropolitan Chicago suburbs are the new swing constituency, holding the balance of power for Illinois in their hands.

Such diversity makes it difficult to speak with one voice, of course. But there are issues and themes that cut across different immigrant communities. All immigrants are affected by federal immigration law, and many will lobby fiercely for a broad legalization of undocumented immigrants and laws that facilitate family reunification. Access to quality education is a priority issue for immigrants, and there will be a strong push for access to universities for undocumented students. Immigrants will advocate for an expansion of the Immigrant Services Line Item in the Illinois budget, which facilitates immigrant integration through such services as citizenship and English classes, interpretation, and health care. Access to health care greatly affects immigrants, as the foreign-born are two and a half times more likely to be uninsured than those born in the U.S. Finally, work-related issues will be extremely important to all immigrants, and especially those in low-wage jobs. These workplace issues include access to driver's licenses to be able to get to work, wages, health care, the right to organize into unions, and support for immigrant entrepreneurs.

This report describes changes in the geographic distribution of immigrants in Illinois. It indicates which counties and municipalities have witnessed the most significant increases in their immigrant populations over the past ten years. Through a couple of in-depth profiles, it attempts to give a flavor to immigrant life outside Chicago. Finally, it points out some upcoming state races in which immigrants have the potential to determine the outcome.

Key findings of the report include:

- Since 1990, the immigrant population increased by nearly 61%. In 1990, the US Census counted 952,272 immigrants in Illinois (8.3% of the state's population). In 2000, the Census counted 1,529,858 immigrants in Illinois (12.3% of the state's population).
- Illinois had the fifth largest increase in the number of immigrants over the same time period. Only California, Texas, New York, and Florida have had higher rates of immigrant influx.
- 45% of the immigrants in Illinois have entered the United States since 1990.
- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the so-called "immigrant stock" of Illinois (people who are either immigrants or children of immigrants) numbers 2,477,000. Immigrant families are therefore 20% of the Illinois population.
- Immigrants are responsible for 58% of the net population growth in Illinois from 1990 to 2000. If not for immigrants Illinois would have lost two Congressional seats, instead of one.
- The top six Illinois Counties with the highest percentage of immigrants are Cook, Kane, DuPage, Lake, Champaign, and Cass Counties. The immigrant populations in Kane and Lake more than doubled in the last decade, while the immigrant population of Cass County increased 13 times!
- 30 of the 102 Illinois counties experienced greater than a 100% increase in the number of immigrants from 1990 to 2000.
- Over the past decade, Illinois immigrants have increasingly migrated to suburban and rural environments rather than urban settings. In 1990, 49% of all immigrants in Illinois lived within the Chicago city limits, but in 2000 only 41% of all immigrants were living in the city. While Chicago had a 34% increase in its immigrant population, the rest of the state (excluding Chicago) experienced an 86.5% increase in its immigrant population.
- Immigrants are the new "soccer moms" of Illinois politics, the key "swing voting" population in key battleground districts that will determine which political party controls the Illinois House and Senate for the next ten years. ICIRR has identified 4 State Senate races and 10 State House races where immigrant voters may determine the outcomes.

I. Changing Immigrant Demographics in the State of Illinois

Illinois, like the United States as a whole, has experienced remarkable increases in its immigrant population since 1990. Immigrants accounted for more than half (58%) of the state's overall population increase (988,691) between 1990 and 2000 (Census 2000). In 1990, the US Census counted 952,272 immigrants in Illinois, or 8.3% of the Illinois population. In 2000, the Census counted 1,529,858 immigrants in Illinois, or 12.3% of the state's population. While the total population of Illinois increased by only 8.6% (from 11,430,602 to 12,419,293) between 1990 and 2000, the immigrant population increased by nearly 61%.

Facts about immigration to Illinois:

- While Illinois had the ninth largest population increase in the US from 1990 to 2000, it had the fifth largest increase in the number of immigrants over the same time period. Only California, Texas, New York, and Florida have had higher rates of immigrant influx. (Census 2000)
- 45% of the immigrants in Illinois have entered the United States since 1990. (Census 2000)
- The immigrant population of Illinois has been increasing at roughly the same rate as the immigrant population of the U.S. as a whole. While the U.S. had a 57% increase in its foreign-born population (from 19,767,316 to 31,107,573), Illinois had a 61% increase in its foreign-born population. (Census 2000)
- Without the influx of immigrants, Illinois would have lost a second Congressional seat following the 2000 Census.
- According to data from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Illinois is the fifth most popular destination choice for Lawful Permanent Residents.
- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the so-called “foreign stock” of Illinois (people who are either immigrants or children of immigrants) numbers 2,477,000. Immigrant families therefore comprise 20% of the Illinois population.

The foreign-born population of Illinois has been increasing over the past 20 years, with a dramatic increase between 1990 and 2000. The proportion of the Illinois population that is foreign-born has also been increasing since 1980, growing to 12.3% in 2000.

Charts 1-1 & 1-2: The Foreign Born Population of Illinois, 1980-2000

(Source: US Census Bureau)

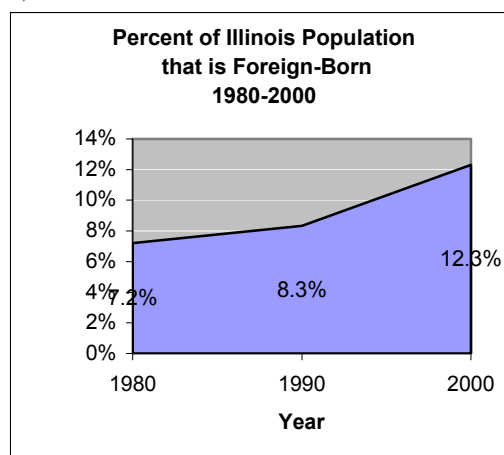
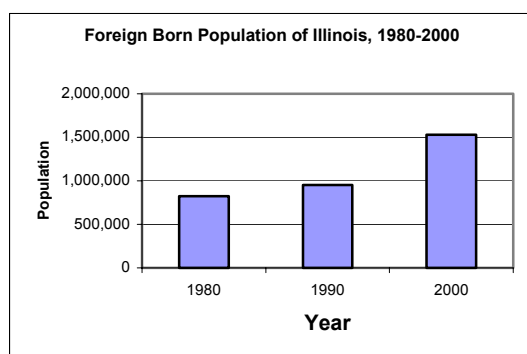
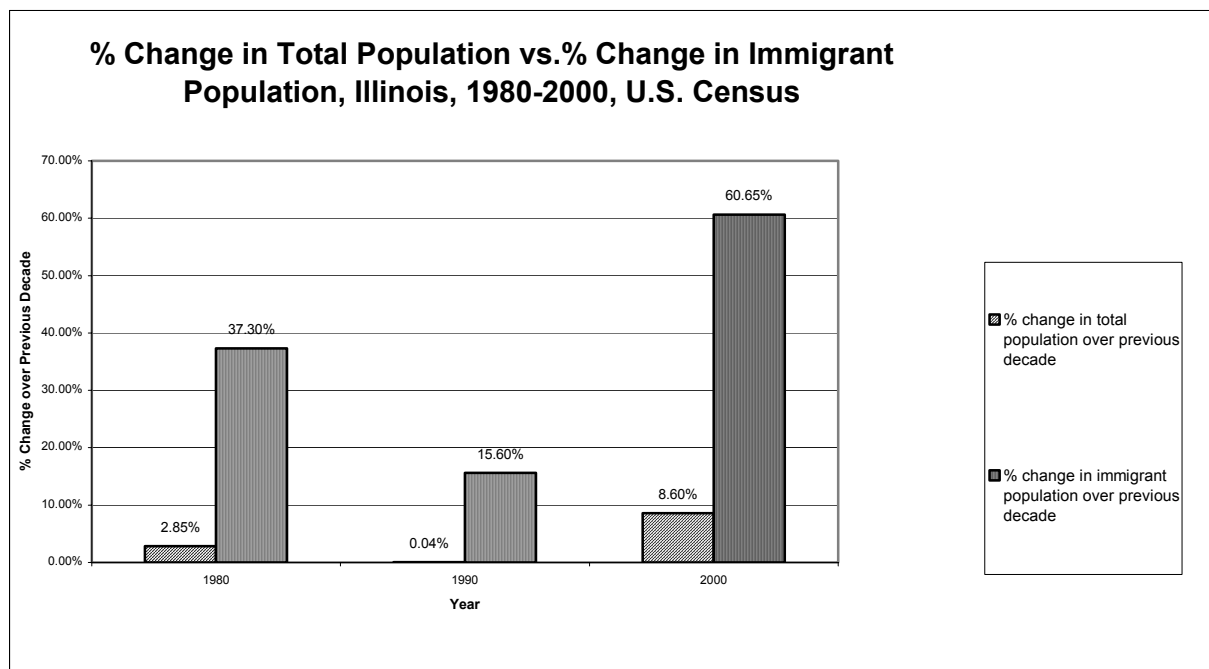


Chart 1-3 shows that the foreign-born population of Illinois has been increasing at a much faster rate than the population of Illinois as a whole.

Chart 1-3: Growth of the Illinois Population 1980-2000

(Source: US Census Bureau)



Changes in Illinois County Demographics

Parallel to the growth in the number of immigrants in Illinois are changes in the geographic settlement patterns of immigrants. Chicago has been the main immigrant destination for most of the 20th Century. However, over the past decade, Illinois immigrants have increasingly migrated to suburban and rural environments. In 1990, 49% of all immigrants in Illinois lived within the Chicago city limits. During the 1990's, a period of high migration to Illinois, a substantial proportion of immigrants chose to settle elsewhere. By 2000, the proportion of immigrants settling in Chicago had decreased to 41%. Illinois outside of Chicago experienced an 86.5% increase in its immigrant population during the period 1990-2000, compared to 34% increase in Chicago.

Table 1-1 shows that the size and distribution of immigrants in Illinois has changed in remarkable ways. While Cook County remains the most common immigrant destination in the state, other Illinois counties have witnessed large increases in their immigrant populations since 1990. Most of the top 15 counties ranked by percent foreign born in 2000 are in northern Illinois, but some — such as Boone, Ogle, DeKalb, Kendall, and Winnebago counties — are quite a distance from the city of Chicago. Other counties among the top 15 are “downstate,” including Champaign, Cass, Jackson, and Rock Island. Cass County has had a dramatic increase in its immigrant population since 1990. It moved up from 62nd in percent foreign born to 6th in a ten year period. Overall, thirty out of 102 counties in Illinois had a greater than 100% increase in their foreign born populations between 1990 and 2000 (See Appendix 1).

Table 1-1: Illinois Counties Ranked by Percent Foreign-Born Population, 1990 and 2000
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

County	Rank in State 2000	% Foreign Born 2000	Rank in State 1990	% Foreign Born 1990
Cook	1	19.8 %	1	12.3 %
Kane	2	15.7 %	3	8.2 %
DuPage	3	15.3 %	2	9.1 %
Lake	4	14.8 %	4	8.0 %
Champaign	5	8.0 %	5	6.1 %
Cass	6	7.8 %	62	0.6 %
Boone	7	7.5 %	10	4.1 %
McHenry	8	7.2 %	9	4.3 %
Will	9	7.1 %	7	4.4 %
Winnebago	10	6.1 %	11	3.7 %
DeKalb	11	5.8 %	8	4.3 %
Kendall	12	3.5 %	12	3.3 %
Jackson	13	5.2 %	6	5.0 %
Rock Island	14	4.6 %	14	2.7 %
Ogle	15	4.3 %	17	1.9 %

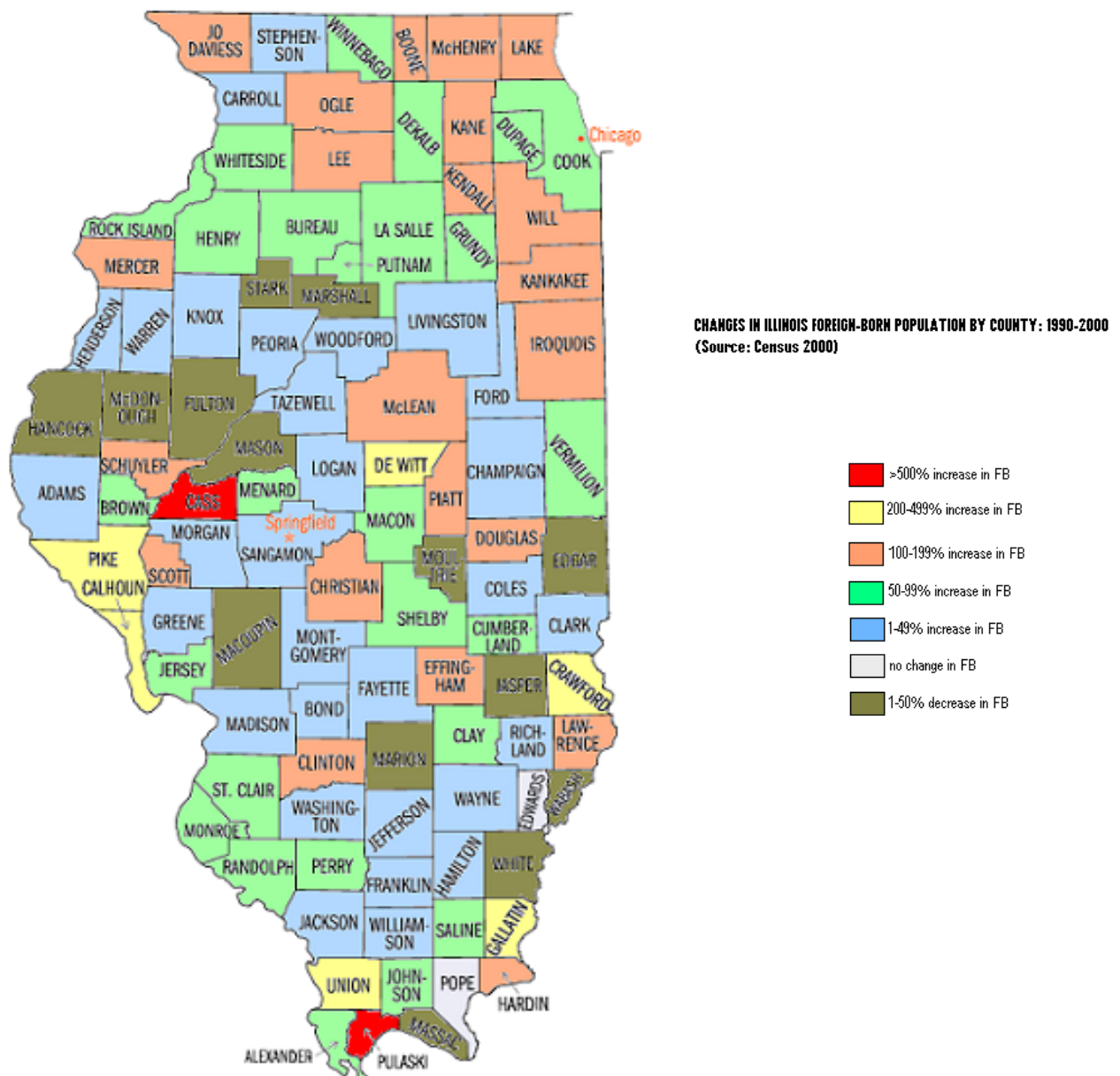
Most of the counties that have seen a dramatic change in their immigrant populations are *not* in northern Illinois. Table 1-2 shows the top 25 Illinois counties ranked by percent increase in foreign-born population from 1990 to 2000, percent of the foreign-born population that arrived since 1990, and the percent change in the overall population of those counties. Once again, Cass County is particularly notable. Since 1990, this Central Illinois county experienced more than a 1000% increase in its foreign-born population. Pulaski County, at the southernmost tip of the state, has also seen a remarkable increase in its immigrant population. Many of these counties experienced overall population decline between 1990 and 2000, even while the number of immigrants living within them increased. See, for example, Gallatin County of southeastern Illinois. While the population of the county decreased by 6.7% over the decade, the number of immigrants in the area increased by nearly 300%. Without immigrants, many of these counties would have experienced even more dramatic decreases in their overall population.

Table 1-2: Illinois Counties by Percent Change in Immigrant Population 1990-2000
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

County	Rank by % Change	% Change in Foreign Born Population 1990-2000	% Arrived since 1990	% Population Change 1990-2000
Cass	1	+1,141%	77%	+1.9%
Pulaski	2	+500%	21%	-2.3%
Pike	3	+470%	43%	-1.1%
Bureau	4	+327%	77%	-0.5%
Calhoun	5	+308%	13%	-4.5%
Gallatin	6	+283%	48%	-6.7%
Union	7	+237%	54%	+3.8%
De Witt	8	+231%	34%	+1.7%
Crawford	9	+216%	33%	+5.1%
Piatt	10	+191%	47%	+5.3%
Douglas	11	+170%	53%	+2.4%
Mercer	12	+150%	40%	-1.9%
Boone	13	+149%	47%	+35.6%
Ogle	14	+147%	50%	+11.0%
Schuyler	15	+145%	56%	-4.1%
Kane	16	+142%	51%	+27.3%
McHenry	17	+138%	46%	+41.9%
Kankakee	18	+136%	47%	+7.9%
Effingham	19	+135%	43%	+8.1%
Hardin	20	+134%	76%	-7.5%
Lake	21	+130%	47%	+24.8%
Jo Daviess	22	+129%	43%	+2.1%
Will	23	+128%	40%	+40.6%
Scott	24	+127%	28%	-1.9%
Iroquois	25	+124%	44%	+1.8%

Figure 1-1 is a map of Illinois that visibly demonstrates the changes each county experienced in its foreign-born population between 1990 and 2000. As noted above, many of the counties with the most significant increases in their immigrant populations (coded red and yellow) lie outside of northern Illinois. The collar counties of Will, Kankakee, Kendall, Kane, McHenry, Lake and Boone had larger proportionate increases in immigrants than Cook and DuPage counties. Clearly, like jobs, businesses, and the native born population, immigrants are a component feature of “urban sprawl.” While many counties in Illinois had a decline in their overall populations from 1990 to 2000, 90% of Illinois counties had an increase in their immigrant populations.

Figure 1-1: Changes in Illinois Foreign-Born Population by County, 1990 – 2000
(Data Source: US Census Bureau; Map: ICIRR)



Focus on Illinois Counties

This section of the report looks at some counties that have experienced increases in their immigrant populations. It also highlights the fact that immigrants are drawn to areas by the availability of jobs. Many of the areas in which immigrants are settling have had large increases in the number of private sector jobs available (especially compared with Chicago, which had a net decline in the number of jobs available). These areas are also home to industries that attract immigrants, such as manufacturing, food service, agriculture, construction, and professional, scientific, and technical services. In many locations, immigrants are recruited by employers as native born residents become less willing to perform certain types of work.

COOK COUNTY

Although Cook County, home of the City of Chicago, has seen a large increase in its immigrant population since 1990, and continues to have the highest concentration of immigrants in the state, its share of the immigrant population has grown more slowly than would be expected. Between 1990 and 2000, Cook County experienced a 48% increase in its immigrant population. While this is significant, it is also not the increase that would be expected if immigrants were drawn overwhelmingly to Cook County, as in past decades. If that were the case, then the rate of increase in its immigrant population should exceed the 61% rate for State of Illinois. This fact further emphasizes the point that immigrants are now settling in parts of the state where they have not traditionally settled.

Suburban Cook County

Cook County continues to have the highest concentration of immigrants in the state. 70% of the immigrants in Illinois live in Cook County. Its population is 19.8% immigrant, composed of persons from over 100 countries. With nearly 1.1 million immigrants in 2000, Cook County has the 3rd largest concentration of immigrants of any metropolitan area in the United States.

The distribution of immigrants within Cook County is changing, however. Whereas the City of Chicago, with its established immigrant networks and employment opportunities, has traditionally been a draw for immigrants, immigrants are now settling at a higher rate in suburban Cook County than in Chicago. While the number of foreign born in Chicago increased by 34% from 1990 to 2000, the number of foreign born in suburban Cook County increased by 76% between 1990 and 2000.

One reason for this migration to suburban Cook County is work. Of the 2.3 million private sector employment opportunities available in Cook County in March 2001, 49% were in Chicago and 51% were in Cook County outside of Chicago (IDES, 2001). The Illinois Department of Employment Security also reports that the percentage of Cook County private sector employers based in Chicago has declined from 55% to 45% since 1980. In addition, housing prices in many parts of Chicago continue to increase and gentrification is forcing lower income populations, including a substantial number of immigrants, to settle in more reasonably priced suburbs.

Furthermore, as Table 1-3 shows, suburban Cook County is home to many of the industries in which immigrants are more likely to work. Comparing suburban Cook County and Chicago, Chicago has a larger percentage of jobs in professional, scientific, and technical services, in finance and insurance, and in health care and social assistance, while suburban Cook County has a higher percentage of jobs in the manufacturing industry, in retail trade, and in health services.

**Table 1-3 Types of Jobs available in Suburban Cook County and Chicago, Illinois, 2001,
sorted by Industry (NAICS)**

(Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2001)

Industry (NAICS)	# of Jobs in Given Industry, Suburban Cook County	% of Jobs in Given Industry, Suburban Cook County	# of Jobs in Given Industry, Chicago	% of Jobs in Given Industry, Chicago
ALL INDUSTRIES	1,180,846		1,141,970	
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, & HUNTING (11)	149	0.0%	199	0.0%
MINING (21)	369	0.0%	316	0.0%
UTILITIES (22)	807	0.1%	5,816	0.5%
CONSTRUCTION (23)	62,529	5.3%	27,931	2.4%
MANUFACTURING (31-33)	206,658	17.5%	122,623	10.7%
WHOLESALE TRADE (42)	83,921	7.1%	46,143	4.0%
RETAIL TRADE (44-45)	160,612	13.6%	90,156	7.9%
TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING (48-49)	54,210	4.6%	75,595	6.6%
INFORMATION (51)	30,334	2.6%	45,713	4.0%
FINANCE & INSURANCE (52)	45,399	3.8%	125,642	11.0%
REAL ESTATE & RENTAL & LEASING (53)	17,855	1.5%	30,413	2.7%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECH. SVCS. (54)	85,205	7.2%	137,426	12.0%
MNGMT. OF COMPANIES & ENTERPRISES (55)	30,331	2.6%	12,885	1.1%
ADMIN. & SUP. & WASTE MGMT. & REMED. SVCS. (56)	75,333	6.4%	92,867	8.1%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (61)	23,372	2.0%	40,009	3.5%
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (62)	149,436	12.7%	126,500	11.1%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION (71)	13,715	1.2%	15,720	1.4%
ACCOMODATIONS & FOOD SERVICES (72)	86,298	7.3%	89,669	7.9%
OTHER SERVICES (except PUBLIC ADMIN.) (81)	41,868	3.5%	53,938	4.7%

Table 1-4 shows the top fifteen immigrant destinations in suburban Cook County, ranked by the percent of their population that is immigrant.

Table 1-4 Towns in Suburban Cook County, ranked by the % of the population that was Foreign Born in 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank by % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	# Foreign Born	% Foreign Born
1	Stone Park	5,127	2,571	50.1%
2	Cicero	85,616	37,343	43.6%
3	Schiller Park	11,850	4,604	38.9%
4	Prospect Heights	17,081	6,399	37.5%
5	Rosemont	4,224	1,555	36.8%
6	Melrose Park	23,171	8,195	35.4%
7	Lincolnwood	12,359	4,216	34.1%
8	Summit	10,637	3,626	34.1%
9	Addison	35,914	12,235	34.1%
10	Harwood Heights	8,297	2,801	33.8%
11	Niles	30,068	10,144	33.7%
12	Morton Grove	22,451	7,535	33.6%
13	Hodgkins	2,134	710	33.3%
14	Franklin Park	19,434	6,368	32.8%
15	Norridge	14,582	4,775	32.7%

Table 1-5 shows the 15 towns in suburban Cook County with the largest increases in their immigrant populations between 1990 and 2000. The dramatic change in immigrant population in many of these towns (coupled with the fact that Chicago's immigrant population increased by only 34% in the same period) emphasizes the shift in immigrant destinations.

Table 1-5 Towns in Suburban Cook County, ranked by the % change in the Foreign-Born population between 1990 and 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank by % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	# Foreign Born	% Change in Foreign Born Population 1990-2000
1	Palatine	65,479	14,249	338.3%
2	Buffalo Grove	42,909	8,690	200.7%
3	Wheeling	34,496	10,817	184.3%
4	Justice	12,193	2,333	172.9%
5	Countryside	5,991	964	163.4%
6	Streamwood	36,407	7,304	155.8%
7	Orland Hills	6,779	594	149.6%
8	Berwyn	54,016	13,552	149.0%
9	South Barrington	3,760	725	146.6%
10	Hanover Park	38,278	10,896	141.2%
11	Bedford Park	574	26	136.4%
12	Cicero	85,616	37,343	131.7%
13	Hickory Hills	13,926	2,340	129.6%
14	North Riverside	6,688	968	125.6%
15	Willow Springs	5,027	657	124.2%

Immigrants to suburban Cook County come from all over the world. Table 1-6 lists the top 15 countries of origin for the foreign-born population in suburban Cook County. Table 1-7 lists the top 15 countries of origin for the foreign-born population of Chicago. Comparing these tables indicates that there is some difference in the immigrants that migrate to Chicago versus suburban Cook County. The immigrant population of suburban Cook County is more diverse than that of Chicago. While 46.5% of Chicago's immigrants hail from Mexico, only 31.6% of suburban Cook County's do. Some groups that are among the top 15 in suburban Cook County are not among the top groups in Chicago, such as Greeks, Russians, Yugoslavs, Japanese, and British. More Indians and Koreans live in the suburbs than in the city. Mexicans are the primary immigrant population of Chicago and Cook County, as well as the state of Illinois.

Table 1-6 Country of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of Suburban Cook County
(Source: US Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of Foreign Born from given country	% of Cook County Foreign Born from given country
	Total foreign born in Suburban Cook County	435,800	
1	Mexico	137,591	31.57%
2	Poland	51,478	11.81%
3	India	32,603	7.48%
4	Philippines	20,886	4.79%
5	Korea	17,230	3.95%
6	Italy	12,050	2.77%
7	Other Eastern Europe	10,359	2.38%
8	Germany	10,283	2.36%
9	Greece	9,518	2.18%
10	Ukraine	7,905	1.81%
11	Russia	7,100	1.63%
	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	6,852	1.57%
12			
13	Yugoslavia	5,880	1.35%
14	Japan	5,680	1.30%
15	United Kingdom	5,217	1.20%

Table 1-7 Country of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of Chicago
(Source: US Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of Chicago Foreign Born from given country	% of Chicago Foreign Born from given country
	Total foreign born in Chicago	628,903	
1	Mexico	292,565	46.5%
2	Poland	69,501	11.1%
3	Philippines	22,678	3.6%
	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	17,299	2.8%
4			
5	India	15,486	2.5%
6	Guatemala	13,699	2.2%
7	Korea	10,167	1.6%
8	Ecuador	9,921	1.6%
9	Pakistan	8,740	1.4%
10	Other Eastern Europe	8,527	1.4%
11	Ukraine	8,296	1.3%
12	Vietnam	8,072	1.3%
13	Germany	6,878	1.1%
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,714	1.1%
14			
15	Italy	6,128	1.0%

DUPAGE COUNTY

In the recent past, DuPage County, located west of Chicago, was considered a pre-dominantly white suburban area with a strong Republican base. In the past several decades, and particularly since 1990, this has changed. Immigrants of all races and from many countries have been settling in DuPage County. Many of them are bypassing Chicago entirely. With a population in the year 2000 of over 900,000, DuPage County has an immigrant population of nearly 140,000, or 15.3% of the population. This is an increase in immigrants of 94% between 1990 and 2000. The immigrant population of DuPage County is increasing at a faster rate than the immigrant population of Suburban Cook County and Chicago.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security reports that the number of private sector jobs in DuPage County rose 34% between 1991 and 2001, compared to Chicago's decline of nearly 2% and suburban Cook County's 23% increase. Many companies are relocating their headquarters, factories, and warehouses to DuPage County, and retail trade and the immigrant population has followed.

DuPage County differs somewhat from Suburban Cook County in the types of industries and jobs that are concentrated in the area. Many industries, such as manufacturing and retail trade are represented heavily in DuPage as in Cook County. In addition, DuPage County has a large number of jobs in the professional, scientific, and technical industries. Nearly 9% of all jobs in DuPage County are of this type, compared with 7% in Suburban Cook County and 5% in Kane County. It is not surprising, then, that a large number of highly educated South Asian immigrants, drawn to the United States by an abundance of openings in technical and scientific jobs, live in the area. Many of these South Asian immigrants are very highly educated and have been drawn to the U.S.

Table 1-8 Types of Jobs available in DuPage County, sorted by Industry (NAICS)
(Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2001)

Industry	Number of Jobs Available	% of Jobs in Given Industry
ALL INDUSTRIES	532,523	
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, & HUNTING (11)	383	0.1%
MINING (21)	N/A	N/A
UTILITIES (22)	3,309	0.6%
CONSTRUCTION (23)	30,943	5.8%
MANUFACTURING (31-33)	74,079	13.9%
WHOLESALE TRADE (42)	55,114	10.3%
RETAIL TRADE (44-45)	70,460	13.2%
TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING (48-49)	22,148	4.2%
INFORMATION (51)	20,851	3.9%
FINANCE & INSURANCE (52)	32,779	6.2%
REAL ESTATE & RENTAL & LEASING (53)	10,103	1.9%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECH. SVCS. (54)	47,039	8.8%
MNGMT. OF COMPANIES & ENTERPRISES (55)	12,214	2.3%
ADMIN. & SUP. & WASTE MGMT. & REMED. SVCS. (56)	40,986	7.7%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (61)	8,953	1.7%
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (62)	40,258	7.6%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION (71)	4,700	0.9%
ACCOMODATIONS & FOOD SERVICES (72)	36,853	6.9%
OTHER SERVICES (except PUBLIC ADMIN.) (81)	20,730	3.9%

Several towns in DuPage County have a particularly large concentration of immigrants. Table 1-9 lists several such DuPage County towns. Addison's population is nearly 27% immigrant and Bloomingdale and Winfield are about 20% immigrant. Table 1-10 shows that the immigrant population in many of these towns has arrived in the United States since 1990.

Table 1-9 Towns in DuPage County, ranked by the % of the population that was Foreign Born in 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	% Foreign Born
1	Addison	88,900	23,661	26.6%
2	Winfield	45,155	9,009	20.0%
3	Bloomingdale	111,709	22,192	19.9%
4	Wayne	63,776	9,799	15.4%
5	Downers Grove	148,110	19,595	13.2%
6	Naperville	85,736	10,994	12.8%
7	Lisle	117,604	14,972	12.7%
8	York	124,553	15,116	12.1%
9	Milton	118,616	13,318	11.2%

Table 1-10 Towns in DuPage County, ranked by the % change in the Foreign Born population between 1990 and 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank by % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	# Foreign Born	% Change in Foreign Born Population 1990-2000
1	Naperville	85,736	10,994	124.7%
2	Winfield	45,155	9,009	111.1%
3	Milton	118,616	13,318	107.4%
4	Lisle	117,604	14,972	90.9%
5	Addison	88,900	23,661	86.8%
6	Bloomingdale	111,709	22,192	71.4%
7	York	124,553	15,116	65.2%
8	Downers Grove	148,110	19,595	62.9%
9	Wayne	63,776	9,799	56.5%

Immigrants to DuPage County, like those in Cook County, come from all over the world. Once again, most of the immigrants to the area are from Mexico. Many immigrants to DuPage County are from India, the Philippines, and Poland. While nearly 32% of immigrants to Suburban Cook County, and almost half of immigrants to Chicago, are from Mexico, only 25% of DuPage County immigrants are from Mexico. Other groups, particularly South Asians, are heavily represented among the DuPage County immigrant population.

Table 1-11 Country of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of DuPage County
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of DuPage Foreign Born from given country	% of DuPage Foreign Born from given country
	Total Foreign Born	138,656	
1	Mexico	35,448	25.6%
2	India	21,745	15.7%
3	Philippines	10,447	7.5%
4	Poland	9,098	6.6%
5	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	4,487	3.2%
6	Italy	4,439	3.2%
7	Other Eastern Europe	3,710	2.7%
8	Pakistan	3,612	2.6%
9	Korea	3,537	2.6%
10	Canada	3,081	2.2%
11	Germany	2,935	2.1%
12	United Kingdom	2,615	1.9%
13	Vietnam	2,525	1.8%
14	Taiwan	2,304	1.7%
15	Greece	1,823	1.3%

Profile: Dr. Farzana Hamid

Dr. Farzana Hamid, a clinical psychologist who works in DuPage County and lives in Kane County, embodies the important contributions that immigrants continue to make to American society. Dr. Hamid came to the U.S. from India in 1967. She and her husband migrated to Eugene, Oregon, where they both earned doctorates in clinical psychology. The couple came with the intention of returning to India. As they began to excel in their careers and start a family, however, they decided to settle in the United States. They shared great hopes about what they could contribute to and gain from life in this country.

In 1968, Dr. Farzana and her husband moved to Elgin, IL, where they had been offered joint internships at the Elgin Mental Health Center, Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. At the time, there were no other Indians or Asians in the area. While they advanced in their mental health careers, Dr. Farzana and her husband wanted to get more involved in the growing suburban Indian community. They organized an Indian Association in Elgin, through which they got to know other Indian families in the area. Later, Dr. Farzana Hamid engaged in cultural awareness and outreach activities, staging a cultural fair that attracted a cross-section of the Elgin community and began to inform non-Indians about Indian culture and values. Her involvement with a DuPage County mosque also brought her in contact with many other families.

As Indian migration increased, a community that was caught between two cultures emerged, spinning to adjust to the difficulties of American life while also trying to help more relatives emigrate from India. Many young families were hosts for other family members, while dealing with cultural clashes that occurred as their children grew up as Americans.

Problems began to emerge. Women came to Dr. Hamid with their family problems, and she began to see the need for an organized and humane response to these problems. After some failed attempts to refer South Asian families to mainstream providers, Dr. Hamid formed an advisory committee, and then founded the Hamdard Center in Wooddale, Illinois (DuPage County) in 1992. From its start as a crisis hotline for South Asians, it has grown to an organization serving South Asians, Middle Easterners, Bosnians, Africans, African Americans, and some Hispanics. Hamdard programs include a domestic violence shelter, education, outreach, transitional housing, a program for male batterers, child welfare services (Hamdard Center has a contract with DCFS to provide culturally sensitive child welfare intervention), home visiting, and mental health services. The central premise of Hamdard Center is that such programs should be “by the community, for the community,” and should focus on prevention.

This is an exciting time to live in the suburbs, says Dr. Hamid, since “a diverse community is visible” and immigrants are making important contributions to every sector. Since September 11, 2001, the immigrant population has suffered and felt victimized, but “the larger community has been overwhelmingly supportive.”

“The immigrant community has brought work ethics, professional and business contributions, a diversity of family and moral values. We’ve shown the larger community that there are different ways to deal with the same problems,” says Dr. Hamid. Immigrant communities need to assimilate, but at the same time the mainstream society needs to learn cultural sensitivity. Leaders like Dr. Hamid provide a roadmap and hope for this kind of forward movement.

KANE COUNTY

Kane County, like Suburban Cook and DuPage Counties, is another “Chicago Collar County” that has seen a significant increase in its immigrant population in recent years. Latino/Hispanic immigrants, particularly Mexicans, are especially prevalent in the area.

Like Suburban Cook and DuPage Counties, Kane County has had a large increase in private sector jobs in the area. Between 1991 and 2001, private sector jobs rose by 40.3% in Kane County, a greater increase than DuPage County. Jobs in manufacturing, food services, waste management, retail trade, and construction are particularly prevalent, as shown in Table 1-12.

Table 1-12: Types of Jobs available in Kane County, sorted by Industry (NAICS)
(Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2001)

Industry	Number of Jobs Available	% of Jobs in Given Industry
ALL INDUSTRIES	165,585	
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, & HUNTING (11)	700	0.4%
MINING (21)	81	0.0%
UTILITIES (22)	unavailable	N/A
CONSTRUCTION (23)	10,991	6.6%
MANUFACTURING (31-33)	38,726	23.4%
WHOLESALE TRADE (42)	8,792	5.3%
RETAIL TRADE (44-45)	20,766	12.5%
TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING (48-49)	4,320	2.6%
INFORMATION (51)	2,968	1.8%
FINANCE & INSURANCE (52)	7,861	4.7%
REAL ESTATE & RENTAL & LEASING (53)	1,676	1.0%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECH. SVCS. (54)	7,714	4.7%
MNGMT. OF COMPANIES & ENTERPRISES (55)	2,023	1.2%
ADMIN. & SUP. & WASTE MGMT. & REMED. SVCS. (56)	20,566	12.4%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (61)	2,276	1.4%
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (62)	15,589	9.4%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION (71)	3,628	2.2%
ACCOMODATIONS & FOOD SERVICES (72)	10,921	6.6%
OTHER SERVICES (except PUBLIC ADMIN.) (81)	5,770	3.5%

Table 1-13 lists the top 15 Kane County towns as ranked by the percent of their population that is immigrant. The largest towns in Kane County, Aurora and Elgin, have the largest immigrant populations.

Table 1-13 Towns in Kane County, ranked by the % of the population that was Foreign Born in 2000. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	% Foreign Born
1	Aurora	115,553	28,256	24.5%
2	Elgin	90,384	18,335	20.3%
3	Dundee	53,207	9,858	18.5%
4	Rutland	3,959	255	6.4%
5	St. Charles	42,051	2,552	6.1%
6	Batavia	30,137	1,719	5.7%
7	Hampshire	4,793	222	4.6%
8	Geneva	23,268	1,005	4.3%
9	Sugar Grove	9,595	395	4.1%
10	Campton	14,072	569	4.0%
11	Burlington	1,834	52	2.8%
12	Plato	4,018	110	2.7%
13	Blackberry	6,071	131	2.2%
14	Virgil	1,947	36	1.8%
15	Big Rock	1,938	15	0.8%

Table 1-14 Towns in Kane County, ranked by % change in the Foreign Born population between 1990 and 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank by % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	# Foreign Born	% Change in Foreign Born Population 1990-2000
1	Hampshire	4,793	222	158.1%
2	Virgil	1,947	36	125.0%
3	Burlington	1,834	52	116.7%
4	Aurora	115,553	28,256	112.9%
5	Dundee	53,207	9858	106.4%
6	Elgin	90,384	18,335	105.7%
7	Plato	4,018	110	100.0%
8	St. Charles	42,051	2,552	95.9%
9	Big Rock	1,938	15	87.5%
10	Batavia	30,137	1,719	75.1%
11	Blackberry	6,071	131	57.8%
12	Geneva	23,268	1,005	49.3%
13	Campton	14,072	569	48.2%
14	Sugar Grove	9,595	395	24.6%
15	Rutland	3,959	255	20.3%

Table 1-15 shows that 76% of the immigrants in Kane County are from Mexico, a significantly higher proportion than in neighboring DuPage County. Table 1-15 lists the most common countries of origin for immigrants to Kane County.

Table 1-15 County of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of Kane County
(Source: U.S.Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of Kane Foreign Born from given country	% of Kane Foreign Born from given country
	Total foreign born in Kane County	63,516	
1	Mexico	48,537	76.4%
2	Germany	1,241	2.0%
3	Canada	1,005	1.6%
4	India	975	1.5%
5	United Kingdom	963	1.5%
6	Philippines	907	1.4%
7	Laos	841	1.3%
8	Poland	679	1.1%
9	Other Eastern Europe	542	0.9%
10	Korea	427	0.7%
11	Vietnam	415	0.7%
12	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	389	0.6%
13	El Salvador	344	0.5%
14	Greece	338	0.5%
15	Pakistan	327	0.5%

The marked dominance of Mexican immigrants in Kane County suggests that job opportunities and the networks of Mexicans in the area are very strong. The large number of manufacturing, construction, and service sector jobs are a draw particularly for those Mexican immigrants who have little formal education and lack knowledge of the English language. Mexican immigrants also live in Kane County because they hear that communities within it are hospitable to new immigrants. A September 26, 2002 article in the *Elgin Courier News* indicated that Senator Steve Rauschenberger, a Republican State Senator from the Elgin area, has become a great supporter and ally of Hispanic immigrants in the area. Towns like Elgin, with traditionally Republican bases, are becoming increasingly supportive of immigrants and are making adjustments so that immigrants have an easier time settling.

LAKE COUNTY

Lake County, which is located north of Cook County and extends to the Wisconsin border, is home to a diverse community of immigrants. Like Suburban Cook County and DuPage County, the immigrant population of Lake County increased dramatically between 1990 and 2000. While Lake County had a 25% increase in its overall population between 1990 and 2000, it had a 130% increase in its immigrant population. With immigrants making up nearly 15% of its population, it also has the fourth-highest concentration of immigrants of all Illinois counties.

Just as in Suburban Cook and DuPage Counties, the number of private sector has increased since 1990. Between 1991 and 1998, the number of private sector jobs in Lake County increased by 16%. The bulk of these jobs are in manufacturing and retail trade, as show in Table 1-16.

Table 1-16 Types of Jobs available in Lake County, Illinois, sorted by Industry (NAICS)
(Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2001)

Industry	Number of Jobs Available	% of Jobs in Given Industry
ALL INDUSTRIES	273,823	
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, & HUNTING (11)	678	0.2%
MINING (21)	N/A	N/A
UTILITIES (22)	1,898	0.7%
CONSTRUCTION (23)	15,254	5.6%
MANUFACTURING (31-33)	55,030	20.1%
WHOLESALE TRADE (42)	24,189	8.8%
RETAIL TRADE (44-45)	40,168	14.7%
TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING (48-49)	4,391	1.6%
INFORMATION (51)	5,560	2.0%
FINANCE & INSURANCE (52)	17,322	6.3%
REAL ESTATE & RENTAL & LEASING (53)	3,215	1.2%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECH. SVCS. (54)	19,602	7.2%
MNGMT. OF COMPANIES & ENTERPRISES (55)	4,344	1.6%
ADMIN. & SUP. & WASTE MGMT. & REMED. SVCS. (56)	23,247	8.5%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (61)	5,270	1.9%
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (62)	22,827	8.3%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION (71)	5,613	2.0%
ACCOMODATIONS & FOOD SERVICES (72)	16,599	6.1%
OTHER SERVICES (except PUBLIC ADMIN.) (81)	8,206	3.0%

Several towns in Lake County have very high concentrations of immigrants, and are listed in Table 1-17, below. Waukegan, for example, has an immigrant population of 30.5%. Table 1-18 shows that many of the towns have had remarkable increases in their immigrant populations between 1990 and 2000, with four towns showing an increase greater than 100% over the period. Again, Waukegan had a huge increase in its foreign-born population between 1990 and 2000.

Table 1-17 Towns in Lake County, ranked by the % of the population that was Foreign Born in 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	% Foreign Born
1	Waukegan	92,805	28,345	30.5%
2	Vernon Hills	65,355	13,386	20.5%
3	Moraine	34,538	5,884	17.0%
4	Libertyville	48,904	8,221	16.8%
5	Avon	54,957	9,144	16.6%
6	Fremont	23,955	3,219	13.4%
7	Warren	59,424	7,700	13.0%
8	Wauconda	16,387	1,668	10.2%
9	West Deerfield	31,794	3,216	10.1%
10	Zion	22,866	2,029	8.9%
11	Ela	39,688	3,257	8.2%
12	Shields	43,382	3,390	7.8%
13	Cuba	15,749	1,008	6.4%
14	Lake Villa	33,721	1,931	5.7%
15	Benton	17,413	959	5.5%

Table 1-18 Towns in Lake County, ranked by the % change in the Foreign Born population between 1990 and 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank by % Foreign Born	Town	Total Population	# Foreign Born	% Change in Foreign Born Population 1990-2000
1	Wauconda	16,387	1,668	125.1%
2	Waukegan	92,805	28,345	121.7%
3	Avon	54,957	9,144	107.7%
4	Libertyville	48,904	8,221	102.4%
5	Vernon Hills	65,355	13,386	96.3%
6	Moraine	34,538	5,884	90.1%
7	Warren	59,424	7,700	76.0%
8	Shields	43,382	3,390	70.6%
9	Fremont	23,955	3,219	63.7%
10	Zion	22,866	2,029	63.6%
11	Grant	17,397	906	63.5%
12	Benton	17,413	959	55.2%
13	Lake Villa	33,721	1,931	47.5%
14	Ela	39,688	3,257	40.8%
15	Cuba	15,749	1,008	40.4%

As in Chicago, an overwhelming number of the immigrants in Lake County are from Mexico, although Lake County has a fairly diverse immigrant population. Table 1-18 lists the most common countries of origin for immigrants to Lake County.

Table 1-18 Country of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of Lake County
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of Lake Foreign Born from given country	% of Lake Foreign Born from given country
	Total foreign born in Lake County	95,536	
1	Mexico	42,879	44.9%
2	Philippines	5,141	5.4%
3	India	3,802	4.0%
4	Poland	3,647	3.8%
5	Korea	2,921	3.1%
6	Germany	2,621	2.7%
7	Ukraine	2,416	2.5%
8	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	2,202	2.3%
9	United Kingdom	2,061	2.2%
10	Honduras	2,061	2.2%
11	Russia	1,949	2.0%
12	Canada	1,768	1.9%
13	Other Eastern Europe	1,695	1.8%
14	Italy	1,680	1.8%
15	Japan	1,119	1.2%

CASS COUNTY

Located in Central Illinois not far from Springfield, Cass County is a prime example of the changing face of Illinois, in that its immigrant destinations include rural areas. Between 1990 and 2000, Cass County witnessed a 1141% increase in its immigrant population, due to the dramatic influx of Latino/Hispanic immigrants to the town of Beardstown.

Beardstown is the only town in Cass County with a significant immigrant population. Of the 1,039 immigrants counted by the U.S. Census in Beardstown, 805 have migrated to the US since 1990. Immigrants are 16% of Beardstown's population, and according to a statement by Mayor Mike Bonasinga in a March 26, 2001 article in the *Christian Science Monitor* ("Hispanics spread to Hinterlands"), they have "breathed new life into the community." Immigrants have transformed the town, which is located on the banks of the Illinois River about 70 miles southwest of Peoria.

The population growth in the area is due to the presence of the Excel Pork Processing Plant, which employs 1,800 workers, and has sought immigrants for these jobs. According to the *Christian Science Monitor* article, many of these immigrants are now buying homes and registering to vote. A Mexican grocery has opened on the town square, schools have hired Spanish-speaking teachers, and two local churches hold Spanish services. Many of the town's longtime residents say that the town's population would have declined without these immigrants, and that immigrants have ensured the future of the Excel

plant, the town's major employer. While there have been some tensions as the town adjusts to its changing population, there is an overall sense of optimism about the role of immigrants in supporting the local economy and ensuring the future of the town and the region. In July, 2002 the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights awarded a \$40,000 Outreach and Interpretation grant to the Cass County Human Resource Center. These grants, part of a contract with the Illinois Department of Human Services, seek to insure that immigrants have access to safety-net services by reducing language and other barriers.



(Source: Christian Science Monitor, March 26, 2001)

Table 1-19 Country of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of Cass County
(Source: US Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of Cass Foreign Born from given country	% of Cass Foreign Born from given country
	Total foreign born in Cass County	1,067	
1	Mexico	951	89.1%
2	Philippines	24	2.2%
3	United Kingdom	20	1.9%
4	Cuba	18	1.7%
5	Guatemala	14	1.3%
6	Panama	11	1.0%
7	France	8	0.7%
8	El Salvador	7	0.7%
9	Honduras	5	0.5%
10	India	4	0.4%

BUREAU COUNTY

Like rural Cass County, Bureau County is another non-traditional immigrant destination. Located in the Illinois Valley of north central Illinois, Bureau County is home to many farming communities and agricultural processing plants. Immigrants have filled the employment needs of the region in recent years, keeping the county's economy strong and bringing diversity to the region. While most immigration to Bureau County has been recent, immigrants have been working in the area for many generations.

One town in particular, Depue, has a uniquely rich immigrant heritage. While the neighboring towns of Spring Valley and Princeton have foreign-born populations of 3% and 2% respectively, Depue is at least 21% immigrant. Its foreign-born population increased 64% between 1990 and 2000. DePue's history of immigrant settlement is like many towns in rural Central Illinois. Formerly Native American, it was initially colonized by German, English, and Scandinavian immigrants. Later, Irish, Polish, Yugoslavian, and Southern European immigrants settled in DePue. Spanish and Mexican immigrants also moved to Depue in the early 20th century, and shared the same Catholic Church (St. Mary's, which still exists) as the European Catholics.

The parents of Felicitas Garetto, 68, who has lived her entire life in Depue, were among this first group of Mexican immigrants to DePue. They came to the town in the 1920s from Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco, Mexico. Like most of the Eastern European immigrants who settled in the area, Felicitas's family arrived in Depue with hopes of employment in the recently constructed New Jersey Zinc Company smelting plant. Though Eastern European immigrants had arrived nearly simultaneously with the Mexican contingent, Felicitas says the family encountered a lot of prejudice from the European immigrant communities that were more prevalent in the town. "They didn't like us, but we grew on them," she says, though she still can't understand the prejudice from the white ethnics, who were also immigrants. "We became a happy little community."

Immigration of Mexicans into Depue continued at a very slow pace until the early 1970s, according to Felicitas. She and her contemporaries assimilated into the town, raising children who often did not speak much Spanish, although they were aware of many other aspects of their culture. In the early 1970s, many of the White ethnics began moving to the nearby towns of LaSalle/Peru and Mendota, and more Mexicans migrated to Depue to work at a mushroom plant that opened in the area in 1976. From its inception, the mushroom plant (now owned by Monterey Mushrooms) employed almost entirely Mexicans and Laotian refugees, who had also moved to the area.

With the influx of new Mexican immigrants, Depue's established Mexicans began to position themselves as mentors. The interaction of the different immigrant generations has continued from the 1970s until today, and the positive nature of that interaction holds great promise for Depue's future. Though many of the newer immigrants are poor and relatively uneducated, they are able to rely on established residents to access jobs, housing, education, and the possibility of a better future for their children. Both Jose Madrigal, who came to Depue in the late 1970s to work in the mushroom plant, and Francisco Ramirez, who arrived in 1996 at the urging of relatives already settled in Depue, encountered a lot of support from other Mexicans in the village, even those who did not speak Spanish. Says Madrigal, "We're all Mexicans to begin with, whether we are born here or there." As Mexicans continue to migrate to Depue (and they do; the foreign born population of Depue went up 64% between 1990 and 2000), this support network will remain important.

Immigrants who originally settled in different parts of the state (especially Chicago) have also made a move to DePue. Victor Juarez, 81, lived in Chicago for forty years, working on the railways and in various other jobs. Instead of retiring in Chicago twenty years ago, he has chosen to spend his remaining years in DePue, enjoying the rural tranquility and the small town sense of community.

The town's appearance indicates the impact that Latinos are having on daily life. Unlike the main streets of Spring Valley and Princeton, Depue's tiny downtown contains two Mexican grocery stores and a Mexican bar. One of the Mexican grocery stores, Delao, carries Asian food items (like Vietnamese pickles) alongside tortillas and tomatillo salsa. Depue schools have hired a couple of Spanish-speaking teachers to meet the needs of the large number of Mexican American children, and the local Catholic Church has begun giving masses in Spanish.

Though Latinos are not currently represented on the town council, the emergence of new Latino leaders in the town, as well as the fact that more and more Latinos are buying homes in the town, suggests that their

representation is imminent. Years of work at the zinc plant have taken a toll on Depue's groundsoil, leading to its 1997 addition to the U.S. E.P.A.'s Superfund list. The Exelon-ESK chemical plant across Lake Depue also has negative environmental effects, with the plant's byproducts occasionally sending a cloud of thick dust over the entire town. Latinos' increased participation in civic life could be crucial in combating some of the urgent environmental and social issues that the town faces.

Table 1-20 Country of Origin for Foreign Born Residents of Bureau County
(Source: US Census Bureau)

Rank	Country of Origin	# of Bureau Foreign Born from given country	% of Bureau Foreign Born from given country
	Total foreign born in Bureau County	938	
1	Mexico	509	54.3%
2	Germany	52	5.5%
3	Laos	39	4.2%
4	Philippines	38	4.1%
5	Canada	36	3.8%
6	United Kingdom	28	3.0%
7	Other Eastern Europe	28	3.0%
8	Korea	23	2.5%
9	Russia	15	1.6%
10	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	14	1.5%
11	Cambodia	13	1.4%
12	Thailand	13	1.4%
13	Italy	12	1.3%
14	India	12	1.3%
15	Greece	11	1.2%

II. Impact of a Changing Illinois on Elections and the Illinois State Legislature

Immigrants are the New “Soccer Moms” of Illinois

Civic participation and the ability to have a say in the workings of government is a foundation of democracy. Increasing immigrant numbers and a rise in citizenship applications across the country suggest the potential power that immigrants could have on local, state, and federal governments.

In particular, immigrants may be the key to the balance of power in the Illinois state legislature in a few select districts. These districts are known as “swing districts” because a lack of clear partisan majority implies that any one voting bloc could tip election outcomes. In the 2000 Election, so-called “soccer moms” were the swing constituency, which meant that their vote had the potential to decide elections in swing districts. In 2002, immigrant voters may be the new “soccer moms” of Illinois – the new key constituency holding the balance of power in the race to control the state legislature in Illinois.

As a result of the 2000 Census, state legislative districts have been redrawn, with state Democrats crafting new suburban districts so that they are competitive for Democrats. The partisan balance in the Illinois State House and Senate is extremely close. The Democratic majority in the State House is currently 62-56. The Republicans lead the State Senate 32-27. In both cases the shift of a few seats can change the balance of power in the state of Illinois.

In Illinois, swing districts on which this balance of power could hinge include areas such as Suburban Cook, Lake, Will, and Kankakee counties, and even formerly traditional Republican strongholds such as DuPage and Kane counties, where the split between Republican and Democratic votes in the 2000 Presidential Election was almost fifty-fifty.

Immigrants are a large part of the population in these areas, and may constitute a significant enough voting bloc to make the difference in a number of key state legislative races this fall. If different immigrant communities become engaged politically, forge alliances with one another, and push for candidates who will deliver on issues that matter to them, they could determine the course of Illinois’ state politics over the next ten years. Organizing immigrant communities in this manner is complex because the pool of immigrant voters is ethnically diverse, including Russians, Mexicans, Koreans, Bosnians, Chinese, Arabs and Indians. ICIRR is working with leaders of all of these communities so that they may effectively speak to political leaders about immigrant issues. ICIRR predicts that the political party that best reaches out to immigrant voters in these areas, responds to their concerns, and gets them to the polls, will control Illinois politics in the coming decade.

ICIRR has identified the following State Representative and Senate districts as key swing districts for this November’s elections. An analysis of these districts shows that immigrants have the potential to change election outcomes and affect the balance of power in the State Legislature.

Northern Cook County and Lake County Districts

In Northern Cook County and Lake County, there are several political swing state legislative districts for the November elections. State House District 17 and State Senate Districts 29 and 30, composed of State House Districts 57, 58, 59, and 60, could see tight races, and immigrant voters could mean the difference in outcomes.

Table 2-1
House District 17 (Northern Cook County)
Pat Hughes (D) v. Beth Coulson (R) (incumbent)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Glenview	19.4%	8128	61.8%	94.3%	2,505	5,026
Morton Grove	33.6%	7535	69.5%	48.0%	3,653	5,235
Northfield	12.4%	668	57.2%	47.8%	268	382
Skokie	37.0%	23437	58.7%	41.1%	9,656	13,753
Wilmette	13.2%	3659	60.7%	4.8%	1,888	2,220
Total	27.0%	43427	61.3%	45.6%	17,970	26,616

Tables 2-2A & 2-2B**Senate District 29**

Susan Garrett (D) vs. Kathleen Parker (R) (incumbent)

Composed of House Districts 57 and 58**Table 2-2A****House District 57 (Northern Cook County)**

Elaine Nekritz (D) vs. Mary Childers (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
DesPlaines	24%	14,010	50%	94%	4,114	6,827
Mount Prospect	27%	15,159	39%	76%	4,022	5,875
Northbrook	15%	5,089	68.5%	56%	2,095	3,484
<i>Total</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>34,258</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>10231</i>	<i>16,186</i>

Table 2-2B
House District 58 (Lake County)
 Karen May (D)(incumbent) vs. Mark Brown (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Deerfield	9%	1,621	60%	26%	785	966
Glencoe	6.5%	571	57%	-5.5%	309	323
Highland Park	15%	4,798	44%	44%	1,879	2,098
Highwood	38%	1,573	27.5%	2%	703	433
Lake Bluff	7%	449	58%	63%	142	262
Lake Forest	6.5%	1,298	55%	7%	661	719
<i>Total</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>10,310</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>4,479</i>	<i>4,801</i>

Table 2-3A & 3B
Senate District 30
Terry Link (D) (incumbent) vs. Chuck Fitzgerald (R)
Composed of House Districts 59 and 60

Table 2-3A
House District 59 (Northern Cook and Lake County)
Kathleen Ryg (D) vs. Roger Byrne (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Buffalo Grove	20%	8,690	51.5%	201%	1,743	4,479
Green Oaks	10%	349	62%	74.5%	142	217
Indian Creek	3%	5	100%	-50%	3	5
Lincolnshire	11%	657	64%	88%	208	421
Mettawa	18%	67	36%	379%	7	24
Park City	32%	2,131	22%	256%	144	476
Riverwoods	13.5%	520	63%	146%	134	327
Vernon Hills	22%	4,365	46%	182.5%	724	1,992
Wheeling	31%	10,817	36%	184%	1,723	3,924
<i>Total</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>27,601</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>187%</i>	<i>4,828</i>	<i>11,865</i>

Table 2-3B
House District 60 (Lake County)
 Eddie Washington (D) vs. Susan Tenzi (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
North Chicago	13%	4,633	26%	112%	727	1,197
Waukegan	30%	26,556	24%	147.5%	3,862	6,422
<i>Total</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>31,189</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>142%</i>	<i>4,589</i>	<i>7,619</i>

Districts in Counties West of Chicago

In counties West of Chicago, particularly DuPage and Kane Counties, immigrants have the potential to swing a couple key races, in Senate District 22 and House District 83.

Table 2-4
Senate District 22 (Northwest Cook and Kane County)
Robert Steffen (D) vs. Steven Rauschenberger (R) (incumbent)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Carpentersville	26%	8,006	22%	250%	808	1,747
East Dundee	7%	199	54%	143%	45	107
Elgin	24%	22,258	27%	125%	2,860	6,059
Hanover Park	28.5%	10,896	36%	141%	1,716	3,882
Hoffman Estates	23.5%	11,651	44%	102%	2,379	5,088
Streamwood	20%	7,304	42%	156%	1,109	3,095
<i>Total</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>60,314</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>137%</i>	<i>8917</i>	<i>19,978</i>

Table 2-5
House District 83 (DuPage County)
 Linda Chapa Lavia (D) vs. Robert J. O'Connor (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Aurora	22%	30,858	27.5	158%	4,027	8,494
Montgomery	5%	291	43%	44%	121	126
<i>Total</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>31,149</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>156.5%</i>	<i>4,148</i>	<i>8,620</i>

Table 2-6
House District 24 (Western Cook County)
 Elizabeth Hernandez (D) vs. Frank Aguilar (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Cicero	26%	37,343	12%	132%	5,834	10,076
Berwyn	25%	13,552	11%	149%	3,407	5,786
<i>Total</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>50,895</i>	<i>11.5%</i>	<i>136%</i>	<i>9,241</i>	<i>15,862</i>

South Suburban Cook County Districts

In South Suburban Cook County, particularly the towns of Tinley Park, Alsip, and Orland Park, immigrants could have an impact on election outcomes. These districts may not have huge immigrant populations, but the closeness of races in previous years, combined with the increase in immigrant constituencies, might swing the races.

Table 2-7A & 2-7B

Senate District 19

Maggie Crotty (D) vs. Brian Younker (R)

Composed of House Districts 35 and 37

Table 2-7A

House District 35 (Southcentral Cook County, Southwest of Chicago)

Kevin Carey Joyce (D) vs. Anne Zickus (R) (incumbent)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Alsip	9%	1,760	63%	71%	610	1,116
Palos Hills	16.5%	2,912	66%	22%	1,357	1,932
Palos Park	8%	391	85%	-13%	389	334
Worth	9%	1,020	39%	120%	285	395
Total	<i>11.5%</i>	<i>6,083</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>2,641</i>	<i>3,777</i>

Table 2-7B**House District 37 (Southcentral Cook County, Southwest of Chicago)**

Kevin McCarthy (D) (incumbent) v. Joel Herrick (R)

Towns within the District	% Immigrant in 2000	# of Immigrants in 2000	% Naturalized	% Change in # of Immigrants 1990-2000	# Naturalized Immigrants in 1990	# Naturalized Immigrants in 2000
Oak Forest	6%	1,630	50%	67.5%	655	809
Orland Hills	9%	594	53.5%	150%	136	318
Orland Park	9%	4,813	77.5%	81.5%	2,039	3731
Tinley Park	6%	2,804	70%	122.5%	857	1967
<i>Total</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>9,841</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>3,687</i>	<i>6,825</i>

Appendix 1

Counties with more than a 100% Increase in their Foreign Born Population, 1990-2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Rank by % Change in Foreign Born Population	County	Total Population	% Of Population that was Foreign Born, 2000	% Change in Foreign Born 1990-2000
1	Cass County	13,695	7.79%	1141%
2	Pulaski County	7,348	0.65%	500%
3	Pike County	17,384	1.08%	470%
4	Calhoun County	5,084	1.04%	308%
5	Gallatin County	6,445	0.36%	283%
6	Union County	18,293	1.94%	237%
7	De Witt County	16,798	1.20%	231%
8	Crawford County	20,452	1.33%	216%
9	Piatt County	16,365	0.60%	191%
10	Douglas County	19,922	2.50%	170%
11	Mercer County	16,957	0.62%	150%
12	Boone County	41,786	7.45%	149%
13	Ogle County	51,032	4.33%	147%
14	Schuyler County	7,189	0.38%	145%
15	Kane County	404,119	15.72%	143%
16	McHenry County	260,077	7.21%	138%
17	Kankakee County	103,833	3.48%	136%
18	Effingham County	34,264	1.00%	135%
19	Hardin County	4,800	1.56%	134%
20	Lake County	644,356	14.83%	130%
21	Jo Daviess County	22,289	1.65%	129%
22	Will County	502,266	7.11%	128%
23	Scott County	5,537	0.45%	127%
24	Iroquois County	31,334	2.44%	124%
25	Kendall County	54,544	5.31%	124%
26	Clinton County	35,535	1.16%	116%
27	Christian County	35,372	1.31%	115%
28	Lee County	36,062	1.92%	106%
29	McLean County	150,433	3.31%	101%
30	Lawrence County	15,452	0.58%	100%

Appendix 2

The Foreign Born Population of Illinois Counties, 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

County	Total Population	# of Foreign Born, 2000	% Foreign Born, 2000	% Change in Foreign Born 1990-2000
Adams County	68,277	554	0.81%	27%
Alexander County	9,590	84	0.88%	71%
Bond County	17,633	142	0.81%	41%
Boone County	41,786	3,114	7.45%	149%
Brown County	6,950	114	1.64%	52%
Bureau County	35,503	938	2.64%	56%
Calhoun County	5,084	53	1.04%	308%
Carroll County	16,674	320	1.92%	32%
Cass County	13,695	1,067	7.79%	1141%
Champaign County	179,669	14,389	8.01%	36%
Christian County	35,372	465	1.31%	115%
Clark County	17,008	110	0.65%	11%
Clay County	14,560	105	0.72%	72%
Clinton County	35,535	411	1.16%	116%
Coles County	53,196	847	1.59%	44%
Cook County	5,376,741	1,064,703	19.80%	48%
Crawford County	20,452	272	1.33%	216%
Cumberland County	11,253	66	0.59%	89%
De Witt County	16,798	202	1.20%	231%
DeKalb County	88,969	5,193	5.84%	54%
Douglas County	19,922	499	2.50%	170%
DuPage County	904,161	138,656	15.34%	94%
Edgar County	19,704	111	0.56%	-6%
Edwards County	6,971	27	0.39%	0%
Effingham County	34,264	343	1.00%	135%
Fayette County	21,802	93	0.43%	24%
Ford County	14,241	150	1.05%	8%
Franklin County	39,018	266	0.68%	4%
Fulton County	38,250	308	0.81%	-14%
Gallatin County	6,445	23	0.36%	283%
Greene County	14,761	49	0.33%	11%
Grundy County	37,535	996	2.65%	83%
Hamilton County	8,621	38	0.44%	23%
Hancock County	20,121	110	0.55%	-23%
Hardin County	4,800	75	1.56%	134%
Henderson County	8,213	30	0.37%	20%
Henry County	51,020	886	1.74%	82%
Iroquois County	31,334	764	2.44%	124%
Jackson County	59,612	3,129	5.25%	2%
Jasper County	10,117	23	0.23%	-34%
Jefferson County	40,045	332	0.83%	42%
Jersey County	21,668	208	0.96%	73%
Jo Daviess County	22,289	368	1.65%	129%

County	Total Population	# of Foreign Born, 2000	% Foreign Born, 2000	% Change in Foreign Born 1990-2000
Johnson County	12,878	191	1.48%	97%
Kane County	404,119	63,516	15.72%	143%
Kankakee County	103,833	3,611	3.48%	136%
Kendall County	54,544	2,899	5.31%	124%
Knox County	55,836	902	1.62%	16%
La Salle County	111,509	3,006	2.70%	50%
Lake County	644,356	95,536	14.83%	130%
Lawrence County	15,452	90	0.58%	100%
Lee County	36,062	691	1.92%	106%
Livingston County	39,678	521	1.31%	8%
Logan County	31,183	446	1.43%	25%
Macon County	114,706	1,571	1.37%	63%
Macoupin County	49,019	249	0.51%	-48%
Madison County	258,941	3,286	1.27%	12%
Marion County	41,691	338	0.81%	-31%
Marshall County	13,180	132	1.00%	-14%
Mason County	16,038	62	0.39%	-42%
Massac County	15,161	66	0.44%	-14%
McDonough County	32,913	921	2.80%	-17%
McHenry County	260,077	18,764	7.21%	138%
McLean County	150,433	4,978	3.31%	101%
Menard County	12,486	85	0.68%	85%
Mercer County	16,957	105	0.62%	150%
Monroe County	27,619	232	0.84%	50%
Montgomery County	30,652	262	0.85%	7%
Morgan County	36,616	410	1.12%	24%
Moultrie County	14,287	87	0.61%	-29%
Ogle County	51,032	2,210	4.33%	147%
Peoria County	183,433	5,825	3.18%	38%
Perry County	23,094	224	0.97%	81%
Piatt County	16,365	99	0.60%	191%
Pike County	17,384	188	1.08%	470%
Pope County	4,413	29	0.66%	0%
Pulaski County	7,348	48	0.65%	500%
Putnam County	6,086	111	1.82%	-18%
Randolph County	33,893	279	0.82%	62%
Richland County	16,149	95	0.59%	27%
Rock Island County	149,374	6,886	4.61%	71%
Saline County	26,733	195	0.73%	73%
Sangamon County	188,951	3,537	1.87%	29%
Schuyler County	7,189	27	0.38%	145%
Scott County	5,537	25	0.45%	127%
Shelby County	22,893	101	0.44%	74%
St. Clair County	256,082	5,443	2.13%	68%
Stark County	6,332	28	0.44%	-18%

County	Total Population	# of Foreign Born, 2000	% Foreign Born, 2000	% Change in Foreign Born 1990-2000
Stephenson County	48,979	921	1.88%	19%
Tazewell County	128,485	1,455	1.13%	10%
Union County	18,293	354	1.94%	237%
Vermilion County	83,919	1,423	1.70%	50%
Wabash County	12,937	93	0.72%	-42%
Warren County	18,735	260	1.39%	45%
Washington County	15,148	86	0.57%	34%
Wayne County	17,151	161	0.94%	30%
White County	15,371	42	0.27%	-45%
Whiteside County	60,653	1,685	2.78%	54%
Will County	502,266	35,715	7.11%	128%
Williamson County	61,296	651	1.06%	4%
Winnebago County	278,418	16,930	6.08%	81%
Woodford County	35,469	342	0.96%	41%